

37012

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: August 24, 1990
From: Nick Magriples
To: C. Sidamon-Eristoff, EPA
W. Muszynski, EPA
R. Caspe, EPA
R. Salkie, EPA
J. Frisco, EPA
G. Zachos, EPA
J. Feldstein, EPA ✓
ERD, Washington,
(E-Mail)
J. Marshall, EPA
D. Karlen, EPA
L. Miller, NJDEP
TAT
Subject: Whitebridge Road - Asbestos Millington Dump,
Meyersville, New Jersey
POLREP NO.: Polrep One (1)

II. BACKGROUND

SITE/SPILL NO.: 6K
D.O. NO.: 7445-02-091
RESPONSE AUTHORITY: CERCLA/SARA
NPL STATUS: NPL
START DATE: Pending
APPROVAL STATUS: Verbal authorization from Division
Director on August 23, 1990.
STATUS OF ACTION MEMORANDUM: Pending

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

A. Type of Incident

The White Bridge Road site is located in Meyersville, New Jersey and consists of approximately 12 acres of land off New Vernon Road and bounded by the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to the east and south, and private residences to the north and west. The address is 651 White Bridge Road (Block 225, Lot 79). The current property owner is David Majors. There are two residents living on-site and an unknown number of persons may board horses in stables on-site.

The land at the site was used as a farm from 1945 until 1969. From 1970 until 1975, landfilling operations by the National Gypsum Corporation were performed. The refuse included asbestos tiles and siding. Following termination

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MDE 0016665

of the landfilling, the owner converted the property into a horse farm with stables, a riding ring, and pasture fields.

The White Bridge Road site has asbestos contamination in the eastern section of the property and along the main driveway. The main landfill area consists of that from a riding tract to a small part of a grazing field. The thickness of the asbestos wastes averages between two to four and one-half feet.

B. Preliminary Assessment Results

The RAB conducted a reconnaissance of the site on March 22, 1990 and a site visit, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) project manager, Sid Mitra and representatives of the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Team (ERT), on June 28, 1990. The purpose of the site visit was to determine what additional sampling would be required, if any, to complete the removal assessment for the site. ERT was present, at the OSC's request, to provide technical assistance for the evaluation. The FWS has an Interagency Agreement (IAG) with the U.S. EPA to provide technical support for the RI/FS for operable unit two.

Based on ERT recommendations, the RAB collected soil and dust samples from the site on August 2, 1990. The soil samples were collected from various points at the surface of the driveway and the shed. A dust sample was not collected from the homeowner's vacuum cleaner since there was no one at home. Samples were analyzed for % asbestos content and type of asbestos fiber using the Transmission Electron Microscopy Method (TEM). The analytical data revealed 2-5% friable chrysotile asbestos in the surface soil.

The Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will be issuing a health advisory, stating that the site poses an imminent health threat, and calling for; medical monitoring of the on-site residents, and additional sampling.

Based on the recent analytical data revealing elevated levels of fibrous asbestos in the surface soils (5% chrysotile), it is apparent that either a release of asbestos to the air may have occurred and/or is currently occurring at this site, or the material has been carried into the home by the residents of the site. Due to the presence of residents and possibly riders, and the potential for off-site migration, a removal action will be conducted to mitigate the potential and existing threats that are posed by the presence of asbestos in the surface soils and the residential home. A sample will be collected from within the Majors' home for a determination on the need of relocation.

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IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Status of Actions

Verbal authorization was obtained from the Division Director at 1100 hours on August 23, 1990. The ERCS contractor, O.H.M., was issued a Delivery Order on the same day. That same day, the OSC accompanied by the Remedial Project Manager (RPM) and a representative from ATSDR, visited the homeowner to discuss the analytical data, its implications, the situation at the New Vernon Road site, the need for obtaining a sample from within the house and the removal action.

B. Next Steps

Heavy rains during the entire week have saturated the roadways and fields at the site, providing temporary relief of any potential airborne contaminants. The homeowner has been instructed not to access the riding ring and the accompanying roadway. A site visit with the O.H.M response manager is scheduled to take place on August 27.

ATSDR and the New Jersey Department of Health will be arranging for medical examinations for the family.

C. Key Issues

The homeowner has expressed frustrations as to why all this is occurring at this time.

Sampling inside additional homes near the site took place on August 24, based on homeowner availability. Results are expected next week.

FURTHER
POLREPS
FINAL POLREP _____ FORTHCOMING X SUBMITTED BY Nick Magriples
Nick Magriples, OSC
Removal Action
Branch

DATE 8/24/90

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